

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Date: 8/9/2011

GAIN Report Number: EC0010

Ecuador

Post: Quito

Food Products Labeling For Human Consumption Unchanged for Imports

Report Categories:

Exporter Guide

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Report Highlights:

In June 2011, Ecuador's Standards Institute (INEN) updated its norm "Food Products Labeling For Human Consumption." The updated norms NTE INEN 1334-1:2011, NTE INEN 1334-2:2011, and NTE INEN 1334-3:2011 introduced changes to labeling requirements for domestically produced food products and will not apply to imported goods.

General Information:

In June 2011, Ecuador's Standards Institute (INEN) updated its norms "Food Products Labeling For Human Consumption." The updated norms NTE INEN 1334-1:2011, NTE INEN 1334-2:2011, and NTE INEN 1334-3:2011 introduced changes to labeling requirements for domestically produced food products and will not apply to imported goods. These changes apply to all food products seeking sanitary registration after July 15, 2011. The norms are not retroactive. However, it is expected that in the future, responding to demand, food manufacturers will start changing the labeling format for all of their products. Depending on the size of demand for imported food products, it is expected that individual importers will start adopting the new label requirements as well, particularly in the case of those products imported from other South American countries.

INEN worked with the domestic food industry as well as with food importers to develop a revised norm that accommodates the need of both stakeholders while fulfilling the requirements of Ecuador's Consumer Protection Law and Ecuador's international commitments as a member of CODEX. The new norms have been described as adhering to CODEX guidance. An initial approach to harmonize Ecuador's food labeling requirements with those of the FDA could not be adopted.

NTE INEN 1334-1:2011, third revision, FOOD PRODUCTS LABELING FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. PART. 1. SPECIFICATIONS provides details on what is required in the label. Section 5.4 requires that the label appears in Spanish. Section 5.5 specifically lists mandatory labeling requirements. Imported products are allowed to show the same information included in a sticker or adhesive label that can be stick on top of the original label. There are no requirements specified for the sticker.

NTE INEN 1334-2:2011, second revision, FOOD PRODUCTS LABELING FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. PART 2. NUTRITIONAL LABELING SPECIFICATIONS provides details on how to declare the nutritional content of the food product. The mandatory format specified in the previous norm was eliminated. A change that applies to imported products as well as domestically produced goods is the mandatory requirement to provide the lipid profile of the food product. Section 5.3.7 establishes that "when the food contains more than 3 g total fat, the amount and/or type of fatty acids must be declared, immediately following the declaration of total fat using the following format:"

Total Fat Content	... grams
Saturated Fatty Acids	... grams
Fatty Acids - trans	... grams
Of which	Monounsaturated Fatty Acids
	... grams
	Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids
	... grams

NTE INEN 1334-3:2011, third revision, FOOD PRODUCTS LABELING FOR HUMAN

CONSUMPTION. PART 3. REQUIERMENTS FOR NUTRITIONAL CLAIMS AND HEALTH CLAIMS, establishes minimum requirements for labels, containers or packages containing food products for human consumption, which include voluntary nutritional and health claims.